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USSR SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS, SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1951

GATHER DATA FOR SOIL MAP OF KARELO-FINNISH SSR -- Petrozavodsk, Leninskoye Znamya,
28 Sep 51.

The expedition from the Central Museum of Soil Science imeni V. V. Dokucha-
yev of the Academy of Sciences USSR has returned to Leningrad from the Karelo-
Finnish SSR. The materials gathered will serve as the basis for the first soil
map to be compiled of the southeastern part of the republic. The map will also
show the agricultural production characteristics of the main soil varieties of
that area.

PROSPECT FOR MINERALS IN LATVIA -- Riga, Sovetskaya Latvija, 6 Oct 51

An expedition from the Institute of Geology and Minerals, Academy of Sci-
ences Latvian SSR, has returned to Riga.

The group investigated an extensive clay deposit in the Karsava area. A
large brickyard, whose products will be used in kolhoz construction, is to be
built there.

During the course of this year, institute members were engaged in pros-
pecting for minerals. Extensive gravel deposits were found in the Ogre area.
Three of the most needed kinds of gravel are available there. The gravel is
suitable for concrete and plaster work and can be used as ballast in road-con-
struction work.

Clay deposits were uncovered in the Tacsavayn, Liepaya, and Bauska areas.
Prospecting for high-quality sand needed in silica-brick production was completed
in the Daugavpils area.

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COLLECT FLORAL SPECIMENS IN TRANSCAUCASUS REGIONS -- Tbilisi, Zarya Vostoka,
19 Oct 51

The expedition from the All-Union Plant Culture Institute has returned to Leningrad from the Caucasus, where it collected wild and cultivated plants on the Black Sea coast, in Abkhaz and Adzhar ASSRs, Dagestan, Azerbaydzhan, and in the high altitudes along Lake Sevan in Armenia.

More than 300 specimens of pears, apples, plums, prunes, and cherries were collected. Some of these were given to the Maykop Experimental Station of the institute for cultivation on its fields.

STUDY SOILS, GROUND WATER IN VOLGA-URAL REGION -- Frunze, Sovetskaya Kirgiziya,
19 Sep 51

Tens of scientific expeditions are working in the area between the Volga and Ural rivers developing materials to be used in planning the irrigation networks based on the Stalingrad Canal.

One of the expeditions, from the All-Union Hydrogeological Trust of the Ministry of Geology, is compiling charts showing the chemical composition of soils and ground waters.

MAKE GEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN CONSTRUCTION AREAS -- Moscow, Trud, 27 Sep 51

A group of instructors and students from Voronezh University and from the Forestry Institute has made geological studies in the construction areas of Kuybyshev GES, Stalingrad GES, and Tsimlyanskaya Reservoir.

The expedition collected much material, which is now being studied in the laboratories of the university and institute.

M. Grishchenko, Doctor of Geological and Mineralogical Sciences, leader of the expedition, reveals that particularly interesting was the discovery of paleontological relics of early man, buried 20 meters under marine deposits of the ice age.

STUDY FLORA IN UZBEKISTAN -- Tashkent, Pravda Vostoka, 6 Oct 51

The expedition from the Botanical Institute imeni V. L. Komarov, Academy of Sciences USSR, has returned to Leningrad from Uzbekistan. In an interview with a Tass correspondent, I. T. Vasilchenko, Doctor of Biological Sciences, head of the expedition, related the following.

The expedition undertook a detailed study of vegetative resources in the western Gissar Mountains. This rugged mountain area, with passes at an elevation of more than 3,000 meters above sea level, had never been explored from the botanical point of view. It was found to be distinguished by many flora which are valuable for Michurian selection and hybridization. Wild grapes, figs, persimmons, pears, cherries, almonds, and tannin-containing plants were found growing there. The expedition also discovered some kinds of wild fruit-bearing plants, which so far are unknown in botanical literature.

The wild-growing flora of the western Gissar Mountains has been depicted in detail on a map. Valuable data has also been collected for the extensive work Flora of the USSR and for a number of scientific monographs.

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A total of 150 seeds, cuttings, and tubers and more than 3,000 leaves of wild fruit-bearing plants, fodder grasses, and other valuable floral representatives of the area have been brought to Leningrad.

UNCOVER RELICS IN UZBEKISTAN -- Zarya Vostoka, 19 Oct 51

On his return to Leningrad, A. N. Bernshtam, Doctor of Historical Sciences, head of the Pamir-Fergana Expedition of the Academy of Sciences USSR, related the following to a Tass correspondent:

In the southern and northern parts of the Fergana Valley, catacombs were uncovered under lava deposits. Vessels, bone ornaments, bronze articles, weapons, and other objects found there may make it possible to recreate a picture of nomadic life of centuries ago.

Also uncovered were unique stone structures built over underground vaults.

Materials collected will be published in the Pamir-Fergana Expedition series of works.

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